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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Plan of East Zone Railroad Union for
Correspondence with Western Zones

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

Note: This report indicates that the Soviet Zone Railroad Union, a branch of the FDGB, is initiating a campaign to influence opinion of Western Zone railroad men through a barrage of letters, describing working conditions and politics in the Soviet Zone. The railroad union has, the report indicates, taken steps to read all the letters to make sure that the campaign does not back-fire.

FDGB Railroad Industrial Union
Bezirk Hq. Dresden

Dresden, 20 October 1949

To all Plant Union Chairmen and Local Chairmen under
Bezirk Hq. Dresden

Circular Letter No. 14

Subject: Interzonal and international connections.

Worthy Colleagues!

It is the job of all unionists to make a decisive contribution in the battle for the goals of the national front. That means exposing war mongers and anti-Soviet rabble rousers! That means pulling to a greater extent the independents and waverers - in short unite all forces who stand for the independence and unity of Germany - into the national front. The national front knows no zonal boundaries. In the sign of the national front we must and will win the battle for Germany's future. That means, therefore, the development of an exchange of political and practical experience with our colleagues in the Soviet Union and the peoples' democracies and especially with our progressive railroad colleagues in the capitalistic countries. For unionists of our young democratic republic, the most pressing job is to intensify to a great degree our correspondence from factory to factory, with the colleagues and functionaries of the Western German trade unions and

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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to show our colleagues in the West the way that must be traveled to the achievement of German unity and to the preservation of world peace.

Our job of creating the functional unity of the German working class must include all German workers. There should therefore be no factory without connections with Western Germany. In order to make the task easy for our colleagues, we ask you to observe the following directions, worked out by the Central Executive Committee of our association, when you take up correspondence:

- 1) The letters from plants or colleagues to the West should have their contents discussed in the plant and be sent directly by the writer. A copy is to be sent to the District Hq., and a copy to the Central Hq. The originals of the replies from the West must be sent to Central Hq. via the District Hq., if possible attached to our answering letter. Colleagues who write the correspondence should discuss the most important union policy matters, along with general and personal subjects.
- 2) Plant or local groups will include in their monthly reports to District Hq. a report on correspondence.
- 3) The answering of special questions from Western German colleagues, i.e., critical questions, will be done after consultation with specialists on Interzonal Work at Bezirk Hq., or on important matters, at Central Hq.
- 4) The taking up of connections with foreign unions is a matter for Central Hq. Plant correspondence of our plants with plants in the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies will be arranged by Central Hq. Incoming international mail received by plants is to be copied and sent in through the District Hq.....

...Colleagues!

By the initiative of our union colleagues in regular correspondence the initiative of union members in the West will also be awakened and promoted for our common fight. In our letters we must call attention to the speech of greeting of the FDGB Bund Executive (Tribüne, No. 41 of 8 Oct 1949) to western German trade unions on the occasion of the Trizonal Trade Union Congress, and in a concrete, factual manner report on developments in our democratic republic. Our colleagues in the West must be instructed about life in our plants and called upon to take a stand on all decisive questions. We thereby make a decisive contribution to the strengthening of the national front, to the reconstruction of our economy, the building up of our young democratic republic and to the preservation of world peace.

With trade-union greetings!

(signed) Lindner
Deputy Chairman

(signed) Immlach
(female) Leader of Schooling Dept

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